



Serial No.: 09/728,242

## In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

#10  
B. Webb  
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|-------------|---|-----------|-------------------|
| Applicants: | Christopher C. Creagan et al.   | Docket    | 13451             |
| Serial No.: | 09/728,242  | Group:    | 3761              |
| Confir. No. | 2514  |           |                   |
| Filed:      | December 1, 2000  | Examiner: | Webb, Jamisue A.  |
| For:        | SUPERABSORBENT AND<br>NONWOVEN COMPOSITES FOR<br>PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS | Date:     | February 14, 2003 |

### Response B

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER H3700

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 and in response to the Office Action mailed August 16, 2002, the following remarks are submitted for your consideration. A Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time has been filed concurrently with this response, extending the time to respond to February 18, 2003, since February 16, 2003 falls on a Sunday, and February 17, 2003 falls on a Federal Holiday.

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### Remarks

Claims 1-20 are presented for Examiner Webb's consideration.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111, reconsideration of the present application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

By way of the Office Action mailed August 16, 2002, Examiner Webb rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,350,370 to Jackson et al. in view of U.S. Patent 5,672,419 to Mukaida et al. and in some instances, in further view of Pike et al. (5,382,400) or Tsai et al. (5,401,446). This rejection is respectfully **traversed** to the extent that it may apply to the currently presented claims, for the following reasons.

With respect to these claims, the following arguments apply:

As the Examiner has noted, the Jackson reference discloses the use of an absorbent material that comprises superabsorbent. Further, the Jackson reference describes the use of swellable superabsorbent (as opposed to an overall swellable material), in combination with fine wettable fibers and pulp fluff. See for instance, the Abstract and Col. 4, lines 19-34. Jackson, however,